

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Friday, December 12, 2003

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soccer finishes season at No. 11

The Texas A&M women's soccer team finished the 2003 season ranked No. 11 by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

The final ranking marked the fifth consecutive year the Aggies finished in the top 12. A&M has finished the season in the top 12 seven times in the program's 11-year history.

A&M participated in its ninth straight NCAA Tournament and advanced to the round of 16 for the fifth time in a row and sixth time overall.

The Aggies compiled a record of 13-6-3 and became one of six teams in the country to advance to the round of 16 each of the past five seasons.

Lewis, Warren earn accolades

Texas A&M football freshmen Courtney Lewis and Justin Warren were named to separate All-America teams.

Lewis, a running back, was named to the College Football News.com Freshmen All-America second team after running for 1,024 yards and 12 touchdowns. He was the first Aggie to rush for more than 1,000 yards since 1998.

Warren, a linebacker, was named to the Rivals.com Freshman All-America team. He had 32 tackles, including four for a loss of yardage, and saw action in all of A&M's 12 games.

He was the first true freshman linebacker to start a season-opening game for the Aggies, and ended 2003 with seven starts.

A&M against No. 1 USC in tourney

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The Texas A&M volleyball team, the No. 16 seed in the 64-team NCAA Championship field, will play top-seeded and defending national champion University of Southern California in a regional semifinal today in Lincoln, Neb. First serve is slated for 4:30 p.m. at Nebraska Coliseum.

No. 8 UCLA (23-8) will take on No. 9 Nebraska (28-4) in the second match of a doubleheader, and the two winners battle Saturday at 7 p.m. for a spot in the Final Four, to be contested at Reunion Arena in Dallas, Dec. 18 and 20. The Aggies, who were eliminated by the Women of Troy (31-0) in the second round of the 2002 NCAA tournament, are making their 11th consecutive and 15th overall appearance in the NCAA Championship.

In addition, A&M (23-9) is advancing to regional play for the sixth time, including the third time in five seasons, after sweeping both Nicholls State and Wisconsin in the first two rounds played in College Station. USC, the Pacific-10 Conference champion and a 3-0 winner against the Aggies earlier this season, is 31-0 after sweeping both New

Hampshire and 15th-ranked Loyola Marymount in the first two rounds played in Los Angeles.

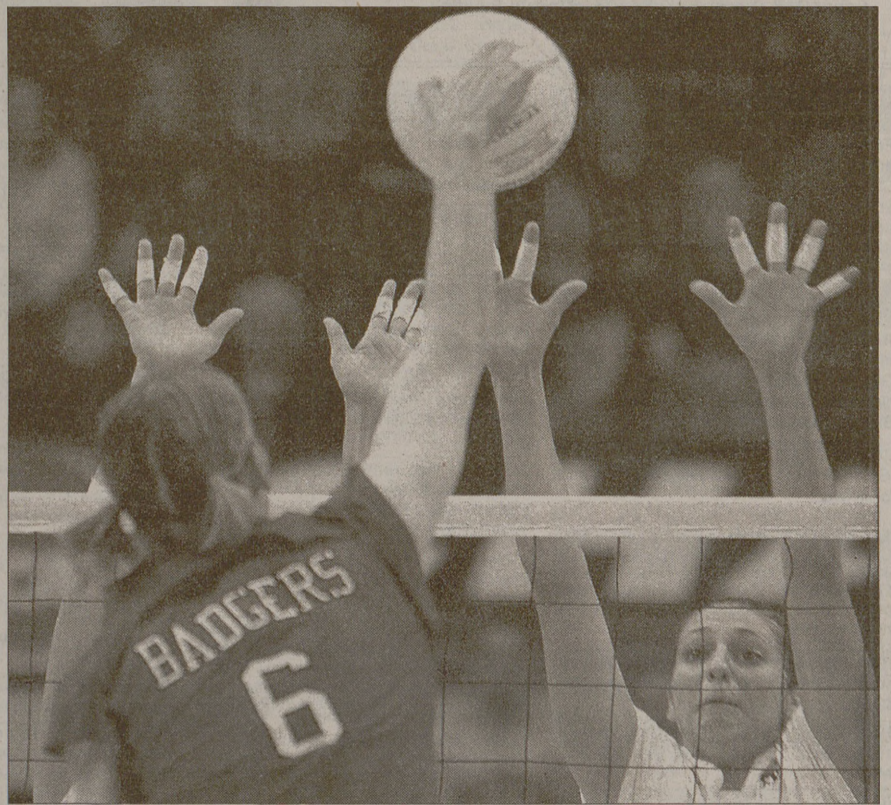
The Trojans, who have won two NCAA titles (1981, 2002), are making their 13th consecutive and 21st overall appearance in the postseason tournament. UCLA (23-8), ranked seventh in the USA Today/AVCA Top 25 Poll is making its 22nd appearance in the 23-year history of the NCAA tournament after tying for third place in the Pac-10.

The Bruins, who have won three NCAA crowns (1984, 1990, 1991) and finished runner-up four times, advanced to the regional after sweeping both San Diego and UC-Irvine. Nebraska also is making its 22nd appearance in the NCAA tournament.

The ninth-ranked Huskers, who captured NCAA crowns in 1995 and 2000, swept both Valparaiso and Dayton in East Lansing, Mich., to advance to the third round. They are 2-0 against the Aggies this season.

Live scoring of all matches will be available at www.Huskers.com and free video streaming and audio of A&M matches only will be available at www.AggieAthletics.com.

Information in this report came from the A&M Sports Information Department.



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M middle blocker Melissa Munsch, right, goes for a block against Wisconsin's Lisa Zukowski during the Aggies' three game sweep of the Badgers last weekend. A&M plays USC today.

Blair, Aggies shooting for fourth straight win

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The Texas A&M women's basketball team continues a seven-game home stand by hosting the McNeese State Cowgirls Saturday at 2 p.m. at Reed Arena.

The Aggies (4-2) have won three straight games including each of their home games.

McNeese State (2-4) enters

the game following a 62-58 win at home over Texas Southern last Saturday.

The countdown is on for A&M senior point guard Toccara Williams as she needs 27 points for career 1,000. She will become the 17th Aggie to reach the 1,000 milestone.

She is the Aggies' leader in scoring (15.3 points per game), assists (6.5) and steals (3.5).

The Big 12 active career leader in steals and assists,

Williams is the nation's returning leader in steals per game after ranking No. 1 last season for 10 weeks.

Williams is the all-time A&M steals leader and the Big 12 steals leader with 362 while ranking No. 3 all-time in the league in

career steals.

She is on-track to break the Big 12 career steals record of 418.

Williams is also climbing the NCAA all-time steals list as she ranks No. 28. She has recorded a steal in all 90 games she has played at A&M.

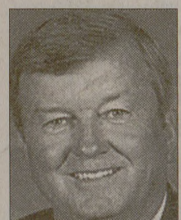
She is one of two Big 12 players ever to record 900 points, 500 assists and 300 steals.

Junior transfer guard Charlette Castile has emerged as

the Aggies No. 2-ranked scorer with 8.5 points a game. Castile has started in the last three games for the Aggies. With Castile in the starting lineup, the Aggies are 3-0 this season.

Senior Lynn Classen blocked nine shots last week and ranks No. 2 in the Big 12. Classen has blocked 97 shots in her career.

Information in this report came from the A&M Sports Information Department.



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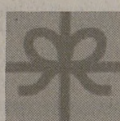
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